

A Devotional Guide for
Holy Week



This devotional material is intended to walk you through the last week of Jesus' life. Use it in your personal devotions, working your way through each day of the week. It can also be used for family devotions. Visual aids are provided for that. An explanation of the visual aids is given at the end of the booklet.

Sunday • The Triumphal Entry

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Visual Aid

Palm leaf and rocks.

For discussion

Read Zechariah 9:9 and Rev. 19:11-16.

What do these two passages have in common?

How are they different? What do they teach us about Jesus?

Today's Memory Verse

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (Isa.53:4a).

Prayer

Father,

Thank you for sending King Jesus to reign in our hearts. We praise you for conquering the sin that enslaves us and defeating the works of your enemy. You alone are worthy of our praise. Hosanna in the highest!

Monday • The Plot Unfolds

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:1-20

Visual Aid

A bag of coins

For discussion

Read John 6:70-71; 13:2, 27; 17:12.

Why do you think Judas was able to be used by Satan?

Read Eph. 4:26-27. In what ways do you think we can give the devil an opportunity?

Today's Memory Verse

"yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted" (Isa.53:4b).

Prayer

Father,

We praise you because even though the world rages against you and the devil prowls around us seeking someone to devour, all things have been put under Jesus' feet.

Tuesday • The Garden

Scripture Reading

Mark 14:32-50

Visual Aid

A cup

For discussion

What is the cup that Jesus prays about? (Read Isa.51:17)

Today's Memory Verse

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities" (Isa.53:5).

Prayer

Father,
Thank you for sending your Son to drink the cup of your wrath for us. We praise you for crushing him in our place.

Wednesday • The Trials

Scripture Reading

Annas (Jn.18:12-13, 19-24)

Caiaphas (Matt. 26:57-68)

The Sanhedrin (Lk.22:66; Matt. 26:57-68)

Pilate (Lk.23:1-7)

Herod (Lk.23:8-11)

Visual Aid

A toy sheep

For discussion

Why do you think Jesus refused to answer the accusations against him?

Today's Memory Verse

"upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace" (Isa. 53:5).
Review the previous day's verses.

Prayer

Father,
Thank you for your Son, who was oppressed and afflicted, yet he didn't open his mouth. He was the Lamb of God who was led to the slaughter for us.

Thursday • The Scourging

Scripture Reading

Pilate (Lk. 23:13-23)

The Scourging (Matt. 27:24-31)

Visual Aid

A whip and a crown of thorns

For discussion

Why do you think Pilate wanted to release Jesus? (Read Mk.15:15; Lk. 23:12; Matt. 27:15-19; Acts 2:22-24)

Today's Memory Verse

"and with his wounds we are healed" (Isa 53:5b).

Prayer

Father, give me a deeper repentance and a hatred of my sin which put Jesus upon the cross. Give me a deeper knowledge of my Savior, Master, Lord, and King. Help me to reflect Christ in my speech, thought, and actions.

Friday • The Death of Jesus

Scripture Reading

John 19:16b-24; Mk.15:29-38; Matt. 27:56-66

Visual Aid

A cross and three large nails

For discussion

Why did Jesus die? (Read Rom. 5:6-11; Jn. 3:16)

Today's Memory Verse

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one to his own way" (Isa. 53:6).

Prayer

Father,
Thank you for making Jesus, who knew no sin, to be judged as a sinful man for our sake, so that we might receive your pardon.

Saturday • The Tomb

Scripture Reading

Romans 3:9-25

Visual Aid

A dark room, with only a flashlight or minimal light to read by

For discussion

What did your salvation cost the Son of God?
Does your life now reflect the immense sacrifice he paid for your soul?

Today's Memory Verse

"and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa.53:6).

Prayer

Father,
We are not good, but you are. Thank you for putting forward your only Son as a wrath-bearing sacrifice for our sin. We praise you because you are just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Sunday • The Resurrection

Scripture Reading

Matt. 28:1-9

Visual Aid

A folded sheet

For discussion

What does Jesus' resurrection mean to your salvation? How should it transform your life now? (Read Rom. 6:1-14; 8:31-39)

Today's Memory Verse

Try reciting the entire passage (Isa. 53:4-6) from memory.

Prayer

Father,
We praise you because you are sovereign over the grave. Nothing shall separate us from your love. Thank you for making us new creations through the life, death and resurrection of you Son.

A List of Visual Aids

Palm branches. You can buy these at most craft stores. You can also make them using construction paper, poster board, or whatever your imagination can create.

Rocks. Have the kids gather some rocks from your yard.

A cup. Use any cup. It's probably best to fill it with something (e.g. grape juice) in order to get the full image of Jesus having to drink the cup of God's wrath.

Bag of coins. Put some pennies in a piece of cloth. Wrap up the coins, tying the cloth at the top with a piece of string.

Toy sheep. Use any kind of stuffed sheep.

A whip. You can buy strips of leather at the craft store. Tie them around a piece of wood to make the whip.

Crown of thorns. You can be creative and make your own, or simply go to the craft store and look around. You should be able to find a small wreath made of wooden twigs.

A cross. Make your own using wood or tree branches.

Three large nails. You can find really long nails at the hardware store.

A dark room. Simply turn off the lights. The dark room is meant to give you a feel for the darkness of Jesus' tomb.

Folded sheet. Just use a white bed sheet. Fold it up to symbolize Jesus' grave cloths.